

FIREARMS

Lesson Plan

NOTES

COURSE TITLE: FIELD NOTE TAKING & REPORT WRITING

BLOCK: 15

DPS ACCREDITATION #:

COURSE LEVEL: 100

INSTRUCTIONAL GOAL:

At the completion of the course, each student should possess the following basic competencies:

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:

- **Identify Firearms Safety Rules**
- **Identify Handgun Nomenclature**
- **Identify Steps in Weapons Presentation**
- **Identify Elements of Marksmanship**
- **Discuss Handgun Manipulations**
- **Identify Weapons Malfunctions**
- **Identify Shooting Positions**
- **Firearm Safety**

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS: CLASSROOM LECTURE
DISCUSSION
ROLE PLAY**

COURSE DURATION: 8HOURS

SAFETY CONSIDERATION: NONE

**EQUIPMENT, PERSONNEL AND SUPPLIES NEEDED:
COMPUTER, AUDIO AND VISUAL AIDS;
WHITEBOARD**

TARGET AUDIENCE: **NEW MEXICO LAW ENFORCEMENT CADETS AND RECRUITS**

COURSE PREREQUISITES: **NONE**

INSTRUCTOR CERT.: **GENERAL POLICE**

INSTRUCTOR RATIO: **1 / 60**

EVALUATION STRATEGY: **NEW MEXICO LAW ENFORCEMENT CERTIFICATION EXAM**

AUTHOR & ORIGINATION DATE:

REVISION / REVIEW DATE(S):

REVISED / REVIEWED BY: **NMLEA INSTR 2014**

COURSE OUTLINE:

- **Four General Firearms Safety Rules**

- 1. **All Guns are always loaded**
- 2. **Never let the muzzle cover anything you are not willing to destroy**
- 3. **Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target and you have made the decision to destroy your target.**
- 4. **Be sure of your target. Know what it is, what is in line with it and what is behind it.**

- **Firearms Safety at Home**

- **To prevent firearm-related accidents at home, practice the following precautions:**

- **Store all firearms and ammunition separately and out of reach of children.**
 - **Use an acceptable trigger guard lock or locked container.**

- **Firearm Safety**

- **Control of your Firearm in a Restroom-**

- **Place the handgun and leather between your feet.**
 - **Place the handgun and leather in your underwear.**
 - **Sling the belt holster and firearm over your shoulder.**

- **Lead Particles Ingestion Hazard-**

Lead is a TOXIC substance. Many things can happen when you ingest too much lead, none of them good:

- **Loss of memory and difficulty in concentration.**
 - **Fatigue**
 - **Irritability and aggression**
 - **Insomnia**
 - **Depression**
 - **Headaches**

A primary source of lead ingestion on the range occurs when the shooter inhales particles saturating the surrounding air. Here are some other things to consider:

- **Brass call is an inevitable part of shooting. DO NOT use your hat as a container to pick up brass.**
 - **Dedicate a specific set of clothing for the range.**
 - **Pregnant females should not go to the range.**
 - **If someone pregnant is in the home, you should change clothing before entering the home.**

- Range clothing should not be washed with any other clothing. Take the range clothing to a commercial laundry and wash it before taking it home.

- Firearms

THE FUNDAMENTALS OF HANDGUN

MARKSMANSHIP

- Elements of Marksmanship
- Marksmanship-

Marksmanship is a combination of the manipulation skills that must be applied in order to be successful in a lethal encounter.

Marksmanship is a skill that you must become second nature. The elements of marksmanship are interrelated and must be applied consistently in order to be effective when employing any firearm.

- Seven (7) Elements of Marksmanship

1. Stance
2. Grip
3. Sight Alignment
4. Sight Picture
5. Breath control
6. Trigger Control
7. Follow Through
8. Stance

1. Stance involves the way in which you stand while shooting. One of the most recommended positions is the Weaver Stance. The Weaver Stance is the same basic position used in defensive tactics.

Isometric tension, which helps control recoil, is the essence of the Weaver Stance.

The Weaver Stance is a balanced position that creates a stable firing platform that can be quickly and consistently acquired.

Foot Position

The feet should be approximately shoulder width apart and on a line that is approximately on a 30 to 45 degree angle to the target with the strong side foot places to the rear. This “bladed” angle is not critical and is determined by what is comfortable.

b) Body Position

The knees are straight but not locked and the body is aligned with the toes. The shoulders should not be squared to the target. The shoulders and hips are on the same angle established by the feet.

c) Head Position

The head is erect and your focus is on the threat area. Keeping your head up helps you maintain balance and makes it easier to breath.

d) Arm and Hand Position

Isometric tension is the essence of the Weaver Stance and is how recoil is controlled when firing the handgun. A proper grip is essential to hold the handgun and control the recoil.

Isometric Tension is a “push-pull” process and is established by:

1. The strong wrist should be locked. The elbow may be locked or slightly flexed, pushing forward. The muscles in the shoulder will be tensed.
2. The weak hand is wrapped around the strong hand, overlapping the fingers, and the weak arm is bent with the elbow pointed down. The strong hand is pushing out towards the target, at the same time the weak hand is pulling back towards the handgun. This locks the arm and hand positions into place with isometric tension.

2. Grip

The grip is essential and works with the stance to control the recoil. Proper grip consists of the strong hand placed as high as possible into the recoil shoulder of the grip, with the bore in a straight line with the wrist and the arm. The support hand is placed over and wrapped around the knuckles of the strong hand.

3. Sight Alignment

This is the relationship of the front sight to the rear sight. Correct sight alignment consists of the front sight being centered in the rear sight notch with equal light on both sides and even across the top.

4. Sight Picture

The correct sight picture consists of placing the properly aligned sights in the center of the target. “Superimposing sites on the sights on the target.”

5. Breath Control

- When shooting at close distances, breathe normally to provide the body with oxygen

- At greater distances, you may need to hold your breath long enough to maintain proper sight picture when firing
- Ideally, shoot during your natural respiratory pause, but inhale and exhale normally as your body needs oxygen.

6. Trigger Control

- The act of pressing the trigger and allowing the shot to go off without disturbing the sight picture
- It should be a “surprise break” when the shot goes off
- It is a continuous fluid motion, steady press straight to the rear

7. Follow Through

- The act of continuing all the fundamentals of marksmanship
- Refocusing on the front sight after each round fired
- Maintaining Isometric Tension
- Controlling the trigger in both directions (trigger reset)
- Maintaining proper breathing
- Be ready/prepared for more encounters
- Handgun
- Presentation Technique
- Count 1- Grip

This is a critical step. If grip is not consistent, fewer good hits will be on target.

Several movements occur simultaneously and it is important that these moves are performed correctly.

- Move the strong hand to a firm, final grip on the holstered weapon and release any retaining devices on the holster simultaneously. At the same time, the weak hand moves to a position above the belt buckle with the palm flat against the abdomen.
- Keep the trigger finger straight and out of the holster.
- Point the strong elbow straight to the rear.
- Count 2- Rock and Lock
 - Places the handgun in the position to move it to the target. It is the same position used for shooting the handgun from the “weapon retention position.”
- Pull the weapon from the holster until the muzzle clears the holster.
- Move the muzzle towards the target until the strong wrist is locked and indexed under the pectoral muscle of the strong side of the body. Keep the weapon and forearm parallel to the ground.

- The trigger finger remains straight along side the weapon receiver, off of the trigger and outside of the trigger guard.
- The weak hand remains flat against the abdomen.
- Count 3- Building Pressure-Grab

This is a critical step as this is when the two-handed grip of the Weaver Stance is established.

Establish two-handed hold—remember isometric tension.

- Simultaneously move the weak hand and strong hand forward from the “Hands Ready” position forward and establish a two-handed grip.
- As the weapon continues toward the target, apply Isometric Tension by pushing forward with the strong hand and pulling back with the weak.
- The trigger finger remains straight along side the handgun receiver but off of the trigger and outside the trigger guard.
- Count 3 should end with the handgun in the shooter’s line of sight.
- Count 4- Lock-Out

Allows the shooter to confirm that the handgun has been properly brought up on target and that nothing has been changed in the alignment or path to the target.

MAKE READY

MAKE SAFE

- TACTICAL LOAD
- SPEED LOAD

PRESS CHECK

- Malfunctions
- Malfunctions
- A pistol malfunction is defined as an interruption in the cycle of operation that can be cured by some type of immediate action drill.
- A correct malfunction clearance should include the transition to another firearm, if available. If not, the shooter should move to cover/concealment.
- Most malfunctions are preventable by good maintenance, proper ammunition and good technique.
- Malfunctions
 - Class 1-Failure to Fire

Tap, Roll, Rack, Assess, Press

- **Class 2-Failure to Eject**

Tap, Roll, Rack, Assess, Press

- **Class 3-Double Feed**

Look, Lock, Strip, Work, Speed Load, Assess, Press

- **Class 4-Slide out of Battery**

Look-Use thumbs, push slide back into battery best is to transition to new weapons

- **Squib Load**—will hear “popping” noise when firing immediately—caused by insufficient powder charge or cartridge otherwise improperly unassembled—Stop firing—as there is a round still in the chamber.

- **Handgun Low-Light Techniques**

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- There are several flashlight/handgun techniques available for the officer. The bottom line is whether the flashlight and handgun are being used together effectively.

- **Handgun Mounted Lights-**

- Mounted lights are the best system available. Handgun mounted lights require no change in technique from day versus night. However, handgun mounted lights require holsters exclusively for this combination.

- **Harries Technique-Crossed**

Provides the advantage of Isometric Tension through the use of the Weaver Stance, allowing for good recoil control.

A disadvantage of the Harries Technique is that the shooters' arms become tired quickly

To assume the Harries Technique Position:

- Hold the flashlight in the weak hand with the head of the flashlight next to the little finger.
- Operate the flashlight switch with the second or third finger, which ever is more comfortable.
- On Count 1 of the presentation, move the weak hand with the flashlight to the belt area. Point the head of the flashlight toward the feet.

On Count 3 of the presentation, ensure that the handgun does not cover the weak hand as the hands come together. Do this by moving the handgun in front of the flashlight, then moving the flashlight under the handgun.

- Place the backs of the hands (flat to flat) against one another and create Isometric Tension by pressing the backs of the hands together.
- Chapman Technique-UnCrossed
The advantage of the Chapman Technique is its ease of assumption, that its comfortable and easily learned. However, it is somewhat difficult for shooters with average to small hand sizes.

To assume the Chapman Technique Position:

- Carry the flashlight in the weak hand with the head of the flashlight in front of the thumb.
- Hold the flashlight with the first two fingers and thumb. The switch is activated with the thumb.
- Place the flashlight and weak hand under the hand gun with the lower two fingers of the weak hand grasping the strong hand.
- Target Engagement
- Shooting Positions
- Kneeling Positions
- California Kneel
- Speed Kneel
- Brace Kneel
- Prone Position
- Target Engagement
- When engaging a target you shoot 2 rounds (controlled pairs) center mass.
- Referred to as the standard defensive response.
- Shooting center mass increases the potential to stop the action.
- When engaging a target you a shooting two rounds center mass of the “available” threat.
- What happens if you fire two rounds center mass and the threat is still a threat?
- Failure Drill
- If you have fired two rounds center mass and you the threat is still a threat.
- Fire two more rounds center mass if the threat is still a threat, reassess
- Take a head shot at this point
- Evaluate your situation:

- If the subject is wearing body armor do you have to take or should you take the body shots prior to the head shot
 - What does your situation call for?
 - Can you articulate your decision?
- Multiple Target Engagement
- Determining the Greatest Threat
- If you have two targets, engage the targets with two rounds each (standard defensive response, starting with the target that poses the greatest danger first.)
- If engaging three or more, fire one shot at each target first, then assess.
- Consider these factors when evaluating relative threat...
- Determining the Greatest Threat
- Weapons-
- Proximity-
- Determining the Greatest Threat
- Posture or Intent- What are the suspect's actions or threats against you? Is the suspect pointing a handgun at you a greater threat than the one with a rifle at port arms?
- Ballistics
- Ballistics
- Ballistics are the study of projectiles in motion. There are three types of ballistics:
 - Internal Ballistics
 - External Ballistics
 - Terminal Ballistics
- Ballistics
- Internal Ballistics-

Internal ballistics involves the aspects that occur from the detonation of the primer by the firing pin to the exit of the projectiles from the muzzle.

A cartridge consists of a case, primer, powder and bullet. The primer is detonated by the impact of the firing pin. This detonation ignites the powder, which burns, generating the pressure that forces the bullet down and out of the barrel.

 - Ballistics
 - Internal Ballistics-
 - Recoil: according to the laws of physics, every action has an equal and opposite reaction. In ballistics, this is called recoil. As the

bullet travels down the bore, the pressure is sustained for only ten thousandths of a second.

- **Rifling:** another major factor in internal ballistics is the spin imparted to the bullet by the rifling as the bullet travels down the barrel. The spin stabilizes the bullet.

- **Ballistics**

External Ballistics

External ballistics involves those aspects of a bullet's flight from its exit at the muzzle to the target. This is sometimes referred to as trajectory.

- **Terminal Ballistics-**

Terminal ballistics involve the projectile's performance from the moment it strikes the target.

- **Legal Issues**
- **Tennessee v. Garner**
471 U.S. 1 (1985)

Firearms Training

- **Popov v. Margate**
467 F. Supp. 1237 (1979)

Firearms Training/Qualification

- **Pistol Nomenclature and Cleaning**

- **The semiautomatic pistol consists of two major components:**

- **Frame (lower receiver group):**

The frame holds the trigger, trigger guard, magazine release lever magazine catch, slide lock lever, safety grip, grip safety, and main spring housing.

- **Slide (upper receiver group):**

The slide contains the barrel, barrel bushing, receiver, slide catch, rear sight, front sight, hammer, recoil guide and spring, extractor, ejector, ejector port, decocking levers, firing pin safety plunger and intercept notch.

- **After firing a semiautomatic pistol, use the following procedures for cleaning:**

- **Clean barrel from the breech end with a properly sized caliber brush and solvent.**
 - **Scrub the slide and bolt face with solvent and brush, cleaning away fouling.**

- Scrub the frame with a brush and solvent, cleaning away fouling.
 - Wipe the pieces dry.
- **Lubrication-**
 - Place a drop of oil on the recoil guide rod and rub evenly.
 - Place a drop of oil on each side of the slide rails of the frame.
 - Wipe the exterior of the frame with a lightly oiled cloth.
 - Wipe the barrel, hammer and outer magazines with a lightly oiled cloth.
- **Magazine Care-**
 - Magazines should be replaced periodically. Clean the exterior of the magazines with solvent and a brush.
 - Clean the follower and the spring, but do not oil either.
- **Disassembly-**
 - Ensure that the pistol is clear by removing the magazine and locking the slide to the rear.
 - Ease the slide forward until the slide stops.
 - Pull the slide slightly to the rear relieving tension on any slide release levers or aligning any slide release pins and notches. Push any slide stops, pins or catches out of the frame.
 - Remove the slide forward from the frame, paying attention to the guide rod spring, so that it does not fly out. (EYE PROTECT SHOULD BE WORN WHEN PERFORMING ANY MAINTENANCE ON A WEAPON.)
 - Turn the slide upside down, compress the recoil spring and lift out the recoil spring and guide rod assembly.
 - Lift up the barrel and pull back, removing it from the slide.
- **Assembly- (simply reverse the steps)**
 - Insert the barrel back into the slide.
 - Install the spring and guide rod assembly along with any retaining devices the weapon may have.
 - The hammer should be forward to replace the slide. Use your finger to depress the ejector, sear release, and firing pin levers at the rear of the frame (when required) to properly align the slide with the frame. On other weapons, use your index finger and thumb to provide a proper alignment guide so as not to round off the ends of the slide's channels
- **After each cleaning, perform a Function Check:**

- **Check to make sure the weapon is not loaded**
- **If the weapon requires a magazine inserted in order to fire, make sure the magazine is unloaded and then insert it into the weapon.**
- **Make sure the weapon is pointed in a safe direction and rack the slide to the rear, charging the weapon.**
- **Pull the trigger and listen to and/or observe the hammer fall, and hold the trigger to the rear.**
- **With the trigger held to the rear, again rack the slide to the rear. The hammer should not fall forward.**
- **At this time, very gently allow the trigger to go forward, paying close attention and listening for a light click, assuring the hammer has reset.**
- **Pull the trigger completely to the rear observing that you should hear and/or see the hammer fall forward.**
- **Rack the slide again and check that the weapon will decock and safe properly.**